

SITUATION REPORT NO. 4
INCIDENT NO. 96-37
DATE: April 16, 1996 **TIME: 12:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: A Nelson County man was killed when his pickup truck rolled on a gravel road softened by overland flooding. A passenger in the truck was injured.
3. DAMAGE: Southern tributaries of the Red River that flooded over the weekend have begun to fall slowly. The communities of Hillsboro, Fort Ransom, Lisbon, Enderlin, and Minto are seeing flood waters recede.

Northern Red River tributaries, the Park River, Tongue River, and Pembina River are exceeding flood stage, threatening communities as the crests move eastward.

Damages in Pembina County are occurring from overland flooding and flooding along the Pembina and Tongue Rivers. Three bridges, west of Niche, are threatened by the Pembina River. The cities of Bowesmont, Bathgate, Cavalier, and Niche are threatened and are being closely monitored by city and county forces. The Renwick Dam at Icelandic State Park is overtopping and can no longer control the flow of water.

In Walsh County, the Park River at Grafton is causing severe flooding. The ice-filled channel east of Grafton is restricting river flow and causing water to back up between Grafton and the Red River. A mobile home park in northwest Grafton has been evacuated and all utilities are shut off. Approximately 15 homes are involved.

In Ransom County, 11 homes have been damaged by flood water or sewage. Approximately 100 people north of Lisbon were temporarily without phone service when a cable was damaged by flood waters and ice. The City of Fort Ransom temporarily shut off a sewage lift station. Two bridges were damaged by flood waters. Flooding also has resulted in the closure of six county roads and six township roads.

Griggs County officials reported they have over 70 county and township roads that have water flowing over them.

In Nelson County, overland flooding and Sheyenne River flooding is impacting the transportation system.

Nelson County officials report 14 township and county roads have been washed out while an additional 15 roads have water flowing over them.

In Barnes County, a primary county road, Highway 10, west of Sanborn, was closed to travel because of high water. There is some rural flooding; individual losses include one home, lost access to three driveways and 10 septic system drain fields are inoperable.

Eddy County officials report 26 township and county roads are inundated and five culverts are washed out.

In Dickey County, 11 county and township roads are covered with water, according to officials.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Volunteers in affected communities continue to assist with flood-fight operations. In addition to volunteer efforts previously reported, approximately 100 people from Enderlin participated in sandbagging operations. In Barnes County, 300 volunteers are helping with sandbagging operations.

The American Red Cross provided 100 clean-up kits to Minto residents.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer issued a State Disaster Declaration, declaring a flood emergency for North Dakota, on April 15, 1996.

On April 15, 1996, County Commissions declaring emergencies include Traill and Pembina. County Commissions declaring disasters include McIntosh and Griggs. The Hillsboro City Commission signed an Emergency Declaration on April 15, 1996.

In Grand Forks, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open 24 hours per day. City and county officials are monitoring conditions in preparation for a predicted crest of 44-44 ½ feet late this week. These predicted levels could be aggravated by ice jams over the next several days. Workers are constructing a clay dike on Belmont Road in south Grand Forks.

Three Nelson County farm families have temporarily relocated due to water in their basements and washed out access roads.

Sandbagging operations have been established at multiple sites in Barnes County. Workers also were cleaning debris from bridges.

In Pembina County, five homes and the U.S. Post Office in Bathgate have been sandbagged. Sandbag operations are also taking place to protect threatened farmsteads. City of Cavalier officials have been breaking up ice jams on the Tongue River.

Inflows into Lake Ashtabula reservoir on the Sheyenne River have increased to at least 5,300 cfs (cubic feet per second) requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release up to 4,200 cfs of water from

Bald Hill Dam. The Sheyenne River at Valley City is expected to reach 16 feet, requiring close monitoring by city officials.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: All local requests for assistance have been met.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, continues to provide technical and equipment assistance to state and local officials.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: A major concern in all areas currently impacted is that dangerous river fluctuations occur as a result of ice jams forming and breaking up.

Overland flooding is causing serious water problems to rural areas and significant damage to public transportation facilities.

Severe flooding is expected to continue along the Red River and its tributaries in Northeast North Dakota. A threat from these high waters will be present for a considerable amount of time due to the loss of established drainage systems to ice. Additionally, breakup of ice on Devils Lake has not yet occurred.

Signed _____

Douglas C. Friez
State Director